

REMARKS

This Amendment is prepared in response to the Office action mailed 23 August 2007 (Paper No. 20070820). Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-34 remain pending in this application.

Several claims have been variously rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Mahara (US 5,146,351) are under 35 USC 103 as obvious of a Mahara in view of Sugiura (US 5,068,192) for the reasons stated on pages 2-7 of the Office Action.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 15, and 22 have been revised such that it is submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are patentable over the cited art, taken either alone or in combination, the following reasons:

While Mahara teaches correcting scanning errors in a flatbed scanner, the scanning errors referred to in Mahara are **not** the scanning errors referred to in the present application. That is, Mahara is correcting the gradations in shading between black and white based on the stored black and white reference data determined by scanning the black and white reference plates.

On the other hand, as noted in the Technical Field of the present application, the present invention relates to a method and apparatus for correcting a scanning error to do a

deviation in the position of a charge-coupled device module of a flatbed scanner. That is, the scanning error referred to in the present application is the positional scanning error and not errors in the gradations in shading between black and white as in Mahara.

While this fact is readily apparent in reading the present application, the independent claims have been revised so as to now clearly recite that the present invention corrects positional scanning errors and the information referred to with respect to the reading module and controller is positional information rather than gradation information.

With regard to Sugiura, no scanning errors of any kind are detected or corrected. Rather, the system of Sugiura merely uses reference lines to determine a reference edge from which the image reading of the document should be started.

Since Mahara only refers to correcting shading gradational errors and since Sugiura is only detecting but not correcting positional information, it would not be obvious to combine the two references since they do not relate to the same subject matter at all.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are patentable over the cited art, taken either alone or in combination, and

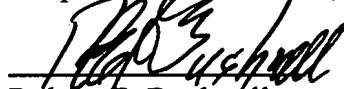
should therefore now be in a condition suitable for allowance.

An additional reference was cited by the Examiner but not utilized in the rejection of the claims and accordingly, no further comment on this reference is necessary.

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon all of the claims now present in the application is respectfully requested. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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